

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U. S. Application No. 09/840,455

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 6-11 are pending in the application.

In response to the Amendment filed October 24, 2003, the Examiner removed the previous claim rejection. Currently, claims 3 and 6-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over previously-cited Chernock et al. (US 6,229,524) in view of previously-cited Blonstein et al. (US 5,955,988), and further in view of newly-cited Inoue (US 6,496,896).

Inoue relates to a transmission apparatus, a recording apparatus, a transmission and reception apparatus, a transmission method, a recording method and a transmission and reception method by which data can be communicated between different apparatus over a single data bus in accordance with a first communication method, wherein data can be transmitted and/or received periodically, and a second communication method, wherein data can be transmitted and/or received asynchronously.

Applicant submits that claims 3 and 6-11 are allowable over the prior art, at least because there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the references. The Examiner asserts that the motivation to combine the teachings of Blonstein et al. with the teachings of Chernock et al. is to provide the user with a simple interface to navigate a cursor among current hot spots. However, as described at col. 3, lines 38-45, Chernock et al. disclose jumping from one hot spot to another using a simple interface, such as a "tab" key on a remote control. Since Chernock et al. disclose this "simple interface," one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Chernock et al. to include the movement of the pointing device of Blonstein et al. In other

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words, there is no motivation to modify Chernock et al. to add a feature from Blonstein et al., which is already included in the disclosure of Chernock et al.

The argument presented above was argued in the October 24 Amendment, but the Examiner did not respond to the argument.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 3 and 6-11 are allowable over the prior art for at least this reason.

Further, Applicant submits that there is no suggestion or motivation to combine the teachings of Inoue with those of Chernock et al. and Blonstein et al. The Examiner concedes that Chernock et al. and Blonstein et al. do not disclose the claimed register of claim 3, but asserts that Inoue discloses the register and that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Inoue with the teachings of Chernock et al. and Blonstein et al. The alleged motivation to combine the references is to transmit and receive data through a data interface in accordance with a predetermined data communication format. See the last paragraph of page 3 of the Office Action. However, there is no indication that the register of Inoue is directly related to, or has anything to do with, transmitting and receiving data through a data interface in accordance with a predetermined data communication format. In other words, the Examiner has provided no reason to combine the particular teachings of Inoue's register with the teachings of Chernock et al. and Blonstein et al. Therefore, claims 3 and 6-11 are allowable over the prior art for this additional reason.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

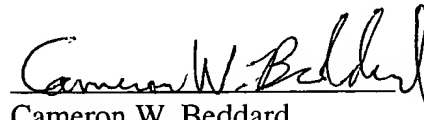
Respectfully submitted,

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